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er number of instances of unmixed typhus, several of the very worst kind, than he remembers to have seen during five years preceding. In May, scarlatina had a slight increase; but soon all other forms of fever merged in the epidemic character of Typhus gravior, or of Synochus speedily becoming typhoid, accompanied by all the most dangerous symptoms which denote that type, and demanding the utmost attention and vigour on the part of the physician.

Where local determinations occurred or supervened, the head and bowels were the chief seats of attack, the lungs also frequently suffered, especially in autumn, and on the approach of winter.

To combat this congestion, or tendency to inflammation, blood-letting, general or topical as the case required, was practised with evident advantage. In no one instance did it appear to be injurious. Gentle purgatives were very freely employed (as indeed they have always been since the opening of the hospital) with the most salutary effects. To enter here into minuteness of description, or of practice, would be inconsistent with the design of this report: nevertheless the above general experience derived from so large a scale of treatment cannot but be acceptable, and perhaps instructive to the medical public.

Of the residents in the hospital, ten were attacked by fever during the year—five of this number, viz. the housekeeper and four nurses were necessarily exposed to the influence of contagion: the remaining five had probably not been sufficiently cautious in their intercourse with the sick, one fell a victim to the disease, a young man who frequently volunteered his services in assisting the apothecary.

Scarlatina, though of a dangerous kind, presented itself so seldom (18 cases) that it has been blended in the

gross numerical account of fever, as being equally contagious. It deserves little further notice here than after May it entirely disappeared. Another fact respecting it is worthy of record, namely, that of the whole number of cases (101) received into the hospital since the year 1107 not one proved fatal. The death reported in 1807 was the consequence of hydropic effusion affecting the brain; the symptoms of scarlatina had gone off some time previous to the patient's admission.

Such, in faint outline, is a sketch of the transactions of the fever-hospital department. By its efficient system much distress, otherwise irremediable, has been alleviated, much prevented. Were this the time or the occasion we could present such groups of wretchedness as must arouse apathy from its torpor, and elicit some generous sparks from the cold heart of avarice itself. Where active benevolence abounds, an appeal to feelings less noble would be at once unnecessary and ungracious. Enough has been said in proof of the diffusive benefits of this institution. On public utility must ever rest its strongest claim to public protection.

R. GAMBLE, M. D.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

YOUR magazine cannot be justly charged with plagiarism, by inserting the following remedy for the sting of a Bee, extracted from the last number of the London Monthly Magazine; it maybe of use to some of your readers.

“On opening one of the leaves of a book hive, in which I keep Bees, according to the French method, for the purpose of taking the honey, without destroying the labourers, one of the inhabitants resented the offence by deep-

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ly infixing his sting just below my left ear. The pain was unusually severe, and in a few moments I felt my swallow greatly affected. Much alarmed, I hastened into the house to procure some sweet oil, with which to rub the part affected. In a little while I felt entire relief from the spasm which had alarmed me, and in a quarter of an hour, or twenty minutes, continuing the friction all this time, was perfectly relieved from all pain."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A CAUTION RESPECTING THE USE OF STRAMONIUM.

FROM some experiments, it appears, that the leaves of this plant are unquestionably highly useful in

asthma, while the effect of the seed and wood are quite different. Great care is necessary not to do mischief by the misapplication of a powerful remedy, through ignorance. Pretenders to knowledge, who with a little smattering are often presumptuous, may promote much injury. I have heard of a mistake lately made: A person afflicted with the asthma, was recommended to smoke the wood of the crab-apple, because some one ignorantly mistook the name of Stramonium, botanically named *Datura*, and by others thorn-apple, for the crab-tree. No person should from a superficial knowledge, venture to prescribe. Quackery, or an itch for prescribing without competent skill, often leads to mistakes which produce irreparable injury. C.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

AN EULOGIUM ON PRESIDENT MONTESQUIEU; BY MONSIEUR D'ALEMBERT.

(Concluded from vol. 6. page 465.)

THE unsuccessfulness of this writer ought greatly to discourage him: he wanted to attack a wise man in that place which is most sensible to every good citizen, but he only procured him an addition of glory as a man of letters: *the Defence of the Spirit of Laws* appeared. This work, on account of that moderation, that truth, that delicacy of ridicule which abound in it, ought to be regarded as a model in this way. M. de Montesquieu, charged by his adversary with atrocious imputations, might easily have rendered him odious: he did better, he made him ridiculous. If we are beholden to an aggressor for that good which

he has done us, without wanting to do it, we owe him eternal thanks for having procured us this masterpiece. But what adds still more to the merit of this precious little piece is this, that the author without thinking of it, has there drawn a picture of himself: those who knew him, think they hear him; and posterity will be convinced, when reading his *Defence*, that his conversation was not inferior to his writings; an encomium which few great men have deserved.

Another circumstance gave him plainly the advantage in this dispute. The critic, who as a proof of his attachment to religion, attacks its ministers, loudly accused the clergy of France, and especially the faculty of theology, of indifference for the cause of God, because they did not authentically proscribe so pernicious